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REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to distinctly claim the subject matter the applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-16 stand provisionally rejected for non-statutory double-patenting.

Applicants acknowledge the provisional rejection and respectfully decline to comment unless and until such provisional rejection becomes an official rejection.

Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8-16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat No. 5,250,605 to Hazan.

Claim 1 has been amended to require the addition of the silane coupling agent (c). Claim 12 has been amended to require the silane coupling agent (c). Hazan does not teach or suggest the need for a silane coupling agent. The silane polymers as suggested by Hazan have a weight average molecular weight of greater than 1,000. The required silane coupling agent (c) of the present invention as amended has a weight average molecular weight of less than 1,000.

Claims 1-6 and 8-16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,250,605 to Hazan and US 5,413,809 to Hazan.

The currently amended claim 1 requires the addition of silane coupling agent (c). Neither of the references to Hazan teach or suggest this compound as part of the coating composition.

Claims 1-3, 6-9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 00/55229 to Uhlianuk.

Currently amended claim 1 requires the presence of 1 to 15 percent by weight of a silane coupling agent. The examiner is of the opinion that excess silane monomer would function in the same capacity of the silane coupling agent. The Applicants respectfully point out that this comment is speculative and is not supported by the clear teaching of the reference. The disclosure of Uhlianuk does not teach or suggest that excess silane monomer is present in any amount, whether insignificant or substantial. There is no reason to infer that an excess is present. One of ordinary skill in the art would consider 1-15% of excess monomer remaining in a polymerized

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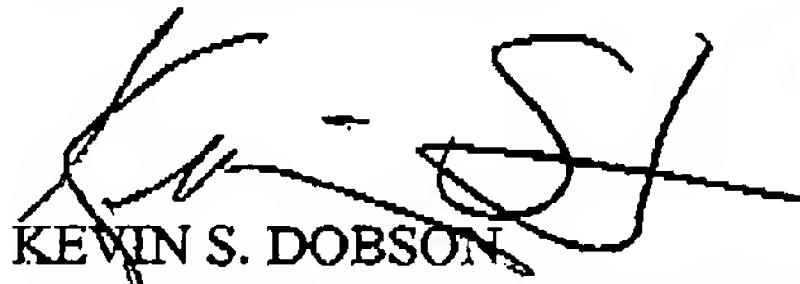
product to be at least noteworthy, and therefore the absence of such a disclosure is strongly suggestive that there is no substantial monomer present in the polymer. As such, the reference does not teach or describe each and every element of the claimed invention, and therefore Applicants respectfully contend that the reference is not an anticipatory reference.

Claims 1-6 and 6-16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 00/55229 Uhlianuk et al in view of US Pat. No. 5,413,809 Hazan.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Neither Uhlianuk or Hazan teach or suggest a silane coupling agent, and therefore the combination of Hazan and Uhlianuk do not produce the claimed coating composition.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn, and that instead a notice of allowability to be issued for Claims 1-16 of the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,


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